

Perhaps it was a custom with Joseph to receive an audience in the morning of the day, to all strangers, who came from foreign countries. On these occasions we may picture to ourselves this exalted character, sitting in a splendid apartment, with all the ensignia of greatness around him: at his right hand stood the steward of the house, ready to receive his commands, and to communicate them to more menial servants; on his left hand, was his interpreter, a man deeply versed in languages, who told Joseph, in the Egyptian tongue, what the foreigners said in their own language; and likewise interpreted to him the answers of his Lord. The intense heat of the season and climate, rendered necessary every means that could be used, to keep the apartments cool: to effect this, the front is screened by nothing but a row of beautiful marble pillars, which support a triumphal arch, which was so contrived, as to prevent the entrance of the sun's beams.

This opened to a view the flowers, in graceful walks, and the rich foliage, from a most grateful shade, incessantly play, and diffuse a murmur through the grove. Adjoining to the room was an extensive hall, which would easily prepossess with enlarged views of the whole mansion. With those who waited among the rest, we may find, spending these moments with those about them, particular enquiries concerning the great persons to be introduced to.

Presently they were a